

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 2, 3, 5-11, 13 and 15-20 are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 4, 12 and 14 are currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 4, 12 and 14 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicant appreciates the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 3, 4, 12 and 17. By way of this amendment and reply, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2 and 3; and thus claim 1 is now in allowable form based on the "objected to" indication made in the Office Action with respect to now-canceled claim 3. Claim 4 now depends from claim 1, and also is in allowable form. Claim 12 has been amended to place that claim in independent form, and thus claim 12 is now in allowable form. Claim 14 has been amended to include the features of claim 17, and thus claim 14 is now in allowable form based on the "objected to" indication made in the Office Action with respect to now-canceled claim 17.

Objection to Title:

In the Office Action, the title of the invention was objected to as not being descriptive of the claimed invention. By way of this amendment and reply, a more descriptive title is being submitted.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8-11, 13-16 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,266,493 to Farrell et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,843 to Obata; and claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrell et al. in view of Obata as applied to claim 1, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,314,250 to Miyashiro. Due to the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 14 to now include features of “objected to” claims, and due to the cancellation of claims 2, 5, 6, 8-11, 13, 15, 16 and 18-20, these rejections are now moot.

Conclusion:

Since all of the objections and rejections raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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